



United States  
of America

# Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 111<sup>th</sup> CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 155

WASHINGTON, WEDNESDAY, MARCH 4, 2009

No. 38

## Senate

The Senate met at 9:30 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable TOM UDALL, a Senator from the State of New Mexico.

### PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Lord, we continue to depend on You to guide our lawmakers on right paths. Only You know what the future holds and the resources we will need to meet our many challenges. Strengthen our Senators so that in the face of great challenges, they will be steadfast, abounding in works that honor You. Give them such confidence in Your providence that no problem will seem insoluble. In all their labors, may their primary motive be to bring glory to Your Name. May their thoughts, words, and deeds be acceptable to You, for You are their rock and redeemer. Make them totally committed to You and unreservedly dedicated to Your love.

We pray in Your mighty Name. Amen.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable TOM UDALL led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America and to the Republic for which it stands, one Nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

### APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. BYRD).

The assistant legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,  
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,  
Washington, DC, March 4, 2009.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby

appoint the Honorable TOM UDALL, a Senator from the State of New Mexico, to perform the duties of the Chair.

ROBERT C. BYRD,  
President pro tempore.

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

### RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

### ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, following the remarks of the leaders, I ask unanimous consent that the Senator from Iowa, Mr. GRASSLEY, be recognized for whatever time he may consume and, following that, we will move to H.R. 1105.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

### SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, it is my understanding there are seven amendments pending. We will dispose of those as quickly as we can. Votes on those will not be able to start until after 2 o'clock today because of Gordon Brown and other things going on here, but we will move through those as rapidly as we can, making sure people have an opportunity to speak for or in opposition. I have spoken to the Republican staff, and they have other amendments they wish to offer. We are moving along fairly well on this bill. We will recess at 10:40 this morning until noon for the joint meeting of Congress with British Prime Minister Gordon Brown.

We have a number of speakers lined up at 12 noon and thereafter to speak on the pending amendments. At 10 this morning, Senator MIKULSKI is expected

to be here to speak on one of the pending amendments.

### RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Republican leader is recognized.

### OMNIBUS APPROPRIATIONS

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, yesterday we had votes on a handful of amendments which were aimed at reducing the overall size of the Omnibus appropriations bill. Many of us who are concerned about the spending binge we have been on thought it would be responsible to bring it back in line with the appropriations bills we passed last year. That was obviously before the economic crisis.

As the junior Senator from Indiana put it this morning in an insightful op-ed piece in the Wall Street Journal, this bill was drafted last year.

Since then, economic and fiscal circumstances have changed dramatically, which is why—

As he put it—

the Senate should go back to the drawing board. The economic downturn requires new policies, not more of the same.

That is Senator EVAN BAYH of Indiana.

I ask unanimous consent to have the article, in which Senator BAYH calls on his colleagues to vote against the omnibus or for the President to veto it, printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From the Wall Street Journal, Mar. 3, 2009]

#### DEFICITS AND FISCAL CREDIBILITY

A DEMOCRATIC SENATOR SAYS NO TO A HUGE  
FEDERAL SPENDING BILL

(By Evan Bayh)

This week, the United States Senate will vote on a spending package to fund the federal government for the remainder of this

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



Printed on recycled paper.

S2723